GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:499
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
PILOT PROJECT FOR CENTRAL JAIL
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has conceived a Pilot project which envisages linkage of video conferencing facilities from one Central jail to district jails and to sub-jails of each States to the Courts as reported in the Asian Age dated September 18, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought/elicited the views/opinion of the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the number of States have responded their views in this regard;

(e) the total expenditure is likely to be incurred/made on the entire scheme separately;

(f) the extent to which the advantages are likely to be accrued to the improvement of jail administration on the implementation of the scheme; and

(g) the time by when the scheme is likely to become operational?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFARIS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a): "Prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Certain State Governments have already introduced video conferencing linkage between the jails & the Courts for limited purposes of production of the accused before the Courts. Since the States have reported huge benefits, this Ministry is considering the possibility of assisting the States.

(b): The proposal is still at a nascent stage.

(c): Yes Sir. This Ministry has requested all the States to give their views and requirements in this regard.

(d): 20 States have so far responded.

(e): The formulation of the scheme is still at a nascent stage.

(f): The experiments in the State have indicated benefits in terms of manpower and security.

(g): At this stage it is not possible to indicate any time frame.